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Report of the Proceedings  
OF THE  
Twenty-Sixth Annual Convention  
OF THE  
North American Bee-Keepers' Association,  
HELD AT  
TORONTO, Ont., Sept. 4, 5 and 6, 1895.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, SEC.

(Continued from page 679.)

The following address should have appeared the first thing in the report of the morning session of the second day, but owing to an unavoidable delay in receiving a copy of it from Mr. Holtermann, I am compelled to put it in out of its proper place:

**The President's Address.**

In the few remarks to which I shall confine myself I would say, that looking upon bee-keeping as an occupation, we are making progress in many desirable directions. There is still with some, unfortunately, a slight tendency to belittle bee-keeping by giving the impression that any one can keep bees and succeed with but little capital, no experience, no labor; and others we find, who, if they do not express it, have a lingering thought in their mind that the advantages of the occupation and the experience of able men should not be presented. All this we are leaving behind us, and we are emerging, in fact standing upon a broad and liberal platform, our industry being recognized as a wealth-producing power of the country; and we can justly be proud of our occupation.

Much has been said, and much has been conceded along the line of the interesting study of the marvelous honey-bee. The study of its life history has thrown open to scientific men some of the most beautiful laws in Nature, in that way increasing our reverence for the Creator of all things, who has set these laws in force. But we cannot emphasize too much the facts that bee-keeping may offer an opening to many in rural districts, who otherwise have to resort to the city, unable to find profitable openings in the country with the capital in hand; that bee-keeping displaces no other crop on the farm; that in taking the honey crop it takes nothing from the fertility of the soil; that bees are great public benefactors in the pollination of flowers, and that day by day, as investigations are being made, importance is being added to the honey-bee in its relation to plant-life; that honey is one of the best and most economical of foods. While we state these and many other facts, we might in justice point out that it takes care, experience, and time to succeed in bee-keeping; that it is a legitimate business, and that the cost of the production taken from the price at which the honey is sold, leaves but a moderate margin of profit to the bee-keeper.

During the past season the most of us have passed through trying times, very few indeed having made a living. The United States, as well as portions of Europe, have had a very light crop—probably after leaving enough for winter, no crop at all. In Canada, some districts such as British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, in Ontario along the Ottawa river, and Northwestern Ontario have done well, but unfortunately in these portions bee-keeping is engaged in by but few.

As to our own organization, the "North American Bee-Keepers' Association," it has been claimed by some that it is not sufficiently representative. This is perhaps true, and yet it is the most representative body of bee-keepers on the continent, meeting here and there, north, south, east and west. It undoubtedly has had a comparatively small number of members, yet many have faithfully and steadily supported it throughout, and when we come to a term of years it embraces a very large membership. During the past year the Association has conferred a lasting benefit upon bee-keepers and railroads. The committee appointed by this organization succeeded in getting important concessions from the Western



President R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont.

Classification Committee, and other districts will no doubt follow in their own interests.

As an Association, and as individual bee-keepers, we might do more to draw attention to the value of honey as a food, and in other ways increase the consumption of one of the healthiest and most economic of foods. Fear of adulteration has much to do with the limit of consumption. As bee-keepers, we must use every means in our power, or that can be put within our power, to convince our customers that honey is a sweet with essential oils added, distilled by Nature's laboratory, and gathered from the fragrant blossoms in the fields and forest. If we desire to gain ground, or even hold our own in the markets of the world, in this matter bee-keepers must stand shoulder to shoulder.

In closing, I need not point out that this is an age of conventions, where man to man we can discuss the great and minor questions affecting our calling. We are not supposed to see eye to eye, but we meet together to discuss methods, to pass resolutions, to convince and be convinced by every honorable means in the discussions. The greatest freedom of

thought should be permitted without in tone, manner or words, allowing personal feelings to creep in to mar the pleasure and utility of our discussions, ever remembering that we should never act contrary to our highest conceptions of duty. To side with error and wrong against our best feelings, or keep silence in the presence of injustice which should excite indignation denunciation is as wrong as it is to throw out insinuations as to motives and accusations for which there is no ground but the imagination.

We have before us an excellent program, and I have no doubt, with the complexion of this convention, that it can and will be one long remembered for its generally pleasant and harmonious feeling, vigor of discussion, and the valuable points which it has brought out, a portion of which in the present stage of journalism will reach the home of every thinking and reading bee-keeper on this continent and in other lands.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

THIRD DAY—FRIDAY MORNING SESSION (*Concluded*).

Mr. R. McKnight, of Owen Sound, Ont., read an essay on the subject of

**Legislation for Bee-Keepers.**

The Secretary, when requesting me to prepare this essay, simplified the work for me, by clearly and concisely sketching what he deemed the best course for me to pursue, in treating the subject he assigned me. I would have you, he said, go over the ground and point where good and evil has come from legislation. This implies that he thought me qualified to do what he asked me to do. It is needless to say that I do not claim to be familiar with the laws of the world bearing on this subject. I think, however, that I know the provisions of all such laws in force in this Province, and believe them to be as full and complete as those of a similar character in force in any other country. Indeed, I do not know of a law affecting bee-keepers (with the single exception of one recently enacted by the legislature of Michigan), the counterpart of which is not in force in Ontario. In reviewing the Ontario laws, then, we will fully cover the ground.

Before doing this, let us consider the justice or injustice of the law in force in Michigan. It provides that bees may not be kept nearer a public highway than 90 feet. This law can cause little if any inconvenience to rural bee-keepers, but may compel some apiarists in towns and villages to abandon the pursuit, or move their bees farther afield. The law does not manifest a clear conception of the matter on the part of those who enacted it, or a close scrutiny of their work by those immediately interested. If the legislature had been wisely advised, the public safety might have been fully secured, and bee-keepers in no wise inconvenienced.

Bees domiciled 90 feet from a public road, with no barrier between the hive and the highway, are a greater menace to the safety of the passer-by than if their hive stood but nine feet away, with a hedge or close board fence (say five feet high) along the margin of the highway. The distance ought to have been regulated with this fact in view.

Returning to the consideration of the laws of the Province affecting us and our pursuit, I find the first enactment relating thereto, an old and important one. It is entitled, "An Act Respecting the Right of Property in Swarms of Bees." I deem this law of sufficient importance (especially to Ontario bee-keepers) to warrant me in quoting it at length. Its provisions are as follows:

1. Bees living in a state of freedom shall be the property of the person discovering them, whether he is, or is not, the proprietor of the land on which they have established themselves.
2. Bees reared and kept in hives shall be private property, and as such shall, to the extent of 15 hives, be exempt from seizure for debt, or for the discharge of any liability whatsoever, save and except the amount of their purchase money.
3. Wherever a swarm of bees leave a hive the proprietor may reclaim them, so long as he can prove his right of property therein, and shall be entitled to take possession of them at any place on which the swarm settles, even if such place be on the land of another person, unless the swarm settles in a hive which is already occupied, in which case the proprietor shall lose all right of property in such swarm; but he shall notify the proprietor of such land beforehand, and compensate him for all damages.
4. Any unpursued swarm which lodges on any property whatsoever, without settling thereon, may be secured by the first comer unless the proprietor of the land objects.
5. If the proprietor of a swarm of bees declines to follow such swarm, and another person undertakes the pursuit, such other person shall be substituted in the rights of the proprietor, and every swarm which is not followed shall become the property of the proprietor of the land on which it settles, without regard to the place from which it has come.

The above is the law of this Province respecting the proprietorship of swarms and absconding swarms, and is so clear that it requires no comment by me.

The next law (in the order of its passing) which we are to consider, is entitled, "An Act for the Suppression of Foul Brood Among Bees." The provisions of this Act are too many to be here quoted in full. Its principal provisions relate to the Inspector, and his work. The Inspector is appointed yearly, by the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, or its Board of Directors, who fix his remuneration; the latter, however, is subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, through whose department he receives his pay. The principal clause of the Act, relating to the Inspector, reads as follows:

INSPECTION OF INFECTED APIARIES.

3. The said Inspector shall, whenever so directed by the President of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, visit without unnecessary delay any locality in the Province of Ontario, and there examine any apiary or apiaries to which the said President may direct him, and ascertain whether or not the disease known as "foul brood" exists in such apiary or apiaries, and whenever the said Inspector shall be satisfied of the existence of foul brood in its virulent or malignant type, it shall be the duty of the Inspector to order all colonies so affected, together with the hives occupied by them, and the contents of such hives and all tainted appurtenances that cannot be disinfected, to be immediately destroyed by fire under the personal direction and superintendence of the said Inspector, and after inspecting infected hives or fixtures, or handling diseased bees, the Inspector shall, before leaving the premises, or proceeding to any other apiary, thoroughly disinfect his own person and clothing, and shall see that any assistant or assistants with him, have also thoroughly disinfected their persons and clothing; provided, that where the Inspector, who shall be the sole judge thereof, shall be satisfied that the disease exists, but only in milder types, and in its incipient stages, and is being, or may be, treated successfully, and the Inspector has reason to believe that it may be entirely cured, then the Inspector may, in his discretion, omit to destroy, or order the destruction of the colonies and hives in which the disease exists.

The law also directs that bee-keepers in whose apiaries foul brood exists, or who know of foul brood existing in any other apiary, and fail to notify the President of the fact, may be prosecuted before a Justice of the Peace, and fined.

Upon receiving such notice, or otherwise becoming aware of the existence of foul brood in the yard of a bee-keeper, the President must immediately direct the Inspector to proceed to and inspect the bees.

When on inspection the disease is found to be present, and the bees destroyed, or treated, the owner may not conceal the fact. Thereafter he is prohibited from selling or bartering bees or appliances until the Inspector gives him permission to do so. Non-compliance with this provision subjects the offender to a fine of not less than \$20, or more than \$50.

This law has been in force about five years, and has, I believe, resulted in much good; inasmuch as it has kept in check, if it has not entirely eradicated, the disease in Ontario. Its good results, however, are largely due to the fact that our Inspector has combined the work of a doctor with the duties of an inspector; nevertheless the law has in it some undesirable points, one of which is, the supreme power of the Inspector. Once ordered into the field, he is the arbiter of the bee-keeper's fate. It is his prerogative to say whether the disease is mild or malignant, and to destroy, or forbear to destroy. It follows, then, that none but a competent and discreet man should be appointed to an office where the incumbent is clothed with such unlimited power. An unscrupulous or vindictive man may do a great injustice in his capacity as inspector, and escape the consequences of his act. It is true the law gives the Association power to make rules to govern his conduct, but, as far as I know, nothing has been done by that body to regulate his conduct while engaged in the work of inspection.

When the Inspector pronounces the disease present, and of a virulent type, and decides to destroy the bees and appliances, or either; and the proprietor challenges his judgment, an appeal should lie, to a competent disinterested third party, whose decision would be final. This referee should be appointed by the Association. The *ipse dixit* of one man should not be deemed sufficient to warrant the destruction of another man's property.

Soon after the passage of the above law, a statute was enacted, prohibiting the spraying of fruit trees while in bloom, with arsenites or other poisonous substances. A similar law is in force in some of the United States. I am not sure such a law is of much use to bee-keepers. It only protects them from injury at the hands of *ignorant* fruit-growers. The spraying of fruit trees is coming into general practice, and it has come to stay while the present pests of fruit-growers abound. What with official bulletins and newspaper articles,

no one need be ignorant of how and when to do it. As yet, however, it is little practiced except by intelligent fruit-growers; and intelligent fruit-growers have too much regard for their own interests to spray their trees with arsenites while in blossom. The self-interest of fruit-growers affords about all the protection to bee-keepers they can hope to secure from spraying out of season.

The last effort at law-making, in the supposed interest of bee-keepers, was undertaken about three years ago, and pressed by a few persistent members of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, under the sanction of a majority of, and at the cost of, the Association. The discussion on the "sugar honey" question, that occupied such a prominent place in the bee-journals at that time, was the inspiring cause of these gentlemen's zeal, in promoting the passage of a law to prevent its manufacture and sale. To carry their views into effect, the following Bill was drawn up:

No imitation of honey, or "sugar honey," so-called, or other imitation for honey, manufactured or produced from cane-sugar, or from any other substance than those which bees gather from natural sources, shall be manufactured or produced, or offered for sale in Canada, or sold therein; and every person who contravenes the provisions of this Act in any manner, shall, on summary conviction, incur a penalty not exceeding \$400, and not less than \$100; and in default of payment, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, and not less than three months.

The importance attached to the passage of this Bill, on the part of its promoters, may be learned from their efforts to secure its enactment. Every year for the last three years time and money have been spent with a view to this end. Delegation after delegation have visited the capital, while parliament was in session, and numerous letters have been written Ministers of the Crown and others, that this apparently much-desired prohibition might be made law, but up to the present time the energetic men who have had it in hand have been doomed to disappointment—a clear enough proof that the law-makers of our land have not been convinced of its necessity. I am opposed to the enactment of needless laws. I look upon this sugar-honey Bill as needless. It is needless because we have now, and for many years past, a good and salutary law respecting the adulteration of food, that affords bee-keepers, and the public generally, about all the protection the sugar-honey Bill aims at securing. I have given you the text of this Bill—let me now draw your attention to the points in common between it and the "Adulteration of Foods Act." The latter Act declares that "No person shall manufacture, or offer for sale, or sell any food which is adulterated under the meaning of this Act;" and under this Act "Food is deemed to be adulterated," 1st, "If any substance has been mixed with it, so as to reduce or lower, or injuriously affect its quality, or strength." 2nd, "If any inferior or cheaper substance has been substituted wholly or in part for the article." 3rd, "If it is an imitation of, or is sold under the name of, another article."

Substituting a cheaper article, making it to assume the appearance of the genuine thing, and selling it under the name of the genuine article, is the fraud the sugar-honey bill aims at preventing. It is manifest from the provisions I have quoted that the Adulteration of Foods Act fully covers this ground. Why, then, seek after that which we already possess? The Bill under review, would, I repeat, be but the re-enactment of an existing law; and, as such, needless. The one aims at amending the other by impairing a heavier fine when adulteration is detected. Fifty dollars is the maximum fine in the Adulteration Act, for manufacturing or selling food mixed with "that which is not injurious to the public health." Four hundred dollars is the fine here sought to be imposed for precisely the same offense—for no one will aver that the admixture of sugar with honey is injurious to the public health.

Understand, that the sugar-honey Bill is an amendment to the Adulteration Act; and, if passed, we would have the anomaly of a law on our Statute Book, one section of which imposes a fine eight times as heavy as another section of the same Act imposes for the same offense. No wonder the Bill in question has not passed into law; but it is a wonder that otherwise sensible men should "spend their strength for nought," and "money for that which is not bread" for bee-keepers."

The Bill is objectionable, too, in that it legalizes the sale of "honey-dew" and "bug-juice." "That which is gathered by the bees from natural sources" is not always honey. Both the above are gathered by the bees from "natural sources"—one of them, at least, is undesirable food.

R. MCKNIGHT.

J. K. Darling—I think the essay a fair one, but I fail to

see how the referring of a disputed case of foul brood to a third person is going to help matters any. It simply transfers the power to another person.

Mr. McEvoy got the impression that his character as inspector had been assailed, and attempted several times to defend himself against such an imputation, but was called to order by the President who held that there was nothing in the essay that could be so construed.

Mr. S. T. Pettit asserted that the law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of filled cheese was similar to the one asked for by the bee-keepers. Mr. McKnight disputed this point, and the assertions and re-assertions became so spirited that the discussion was cut off.

#### Next Place of Meeting and Election of Officers.

Upon motion of Dr. Mason, it was voted that the time and place for holding the next meeting be left with the Executive Committee.

The following officers were elected for 1896: President, A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio; Vice-President, Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn, Ont.; Secretary, A. B. Mason, Toledo, Ohio; Treasurer, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.

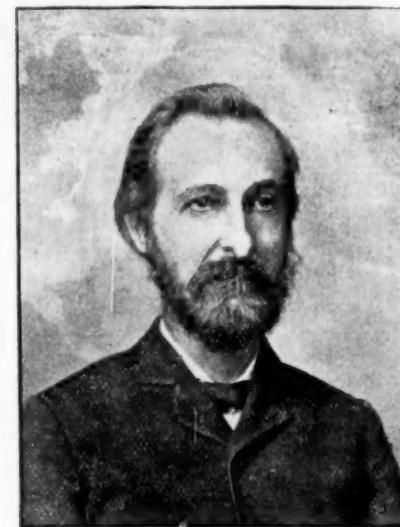
A vote of thanks was given for the use of the hall, to the Toronto papers for the kindly notices given, and to Mr. H. J. Hill, of the Toronto Exhibition, for the assistance and advertising that he had given the meeting.

Next came an essay by Dr. J. P. H. Brown, of Augusta, Ga., entitled,

#### What is Indicated by Color in Italian Bees?

Before I can proceed to answer this question, I beg leave to ask another, and to make a few observations thereon. Is the Italian bee a fixed type or race, with a distinct individuality, or only a variety of *Apis mellifica*? That it is only a variety, and not a fixed type, is a fact well established, both by its physical characteristics in breeding, and by a study of its geographical distribution in its "Sunny Italian clime."

But to constitute a variety or breed of any species, there must be some distinguishing characteristics. Thus, the different breeds of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, etc., can readily be distinguished from each other by certain physical mark-



Dr. J. P. H. Brown, Augusta, Ga.

ings, and by peculiarities of temperament. This same law applies to the Italian bee.

We have been accustomed to find it in those Italian districts, where it exists in its highest state of development, with the three abdominal segments next the thorax of a color varying from a bright yellow to a dark leather. These three yellow bands are claimed to be a test of purity, but there are physical conditions that prevail in this variety of bees that are really more reliable as a test of purity than the yellow bands. For instance, the pure-blooded bee will maintain its position on the combs, and will not run and scamper when smoke is applied, and the hive opened, like bees of other varieties. The queens are less excitable and not so easily frightened.

I wish here to be understood that these observations apply to Italian bees as received from Italy.

Every experienced breeder of Italian queens knows that by a selection of his yellowest female and male stock, that in a few generations he can produce bees with bands much yellower and brighter than the original imported stock, and if there is an introduction of Cyprian or Syrian blood the yellow is further extended and increased. Queens from such stock may be bright yellow; drones brilliantly mottled with yellow; and workers with four and five yellow bands. The dull markings of the Italian ancestors are obliterated by the brightness of the golden beauties. It is very questionable, in my mind, whether these Americanized four and five banded bees can, with propriety, be called Italians. There is a change of physical characteristics from the original. They cannot strictly come within the text of my essay. Color here is certainly no criterion of purity. It only indicates that there has been a selection of yellow stock for breeding.

My text confines me to the markings of Italian bees as we get them from Italy. These must be pure if the fact of their coming from that country can make them so. The color of imported Italian queens varies from quite dark to yellow; drones from nearly black to mottled with yellow; workers with three abdominal bands varying from dark leather to bright yellow. In some cases the third band cannot be seen until the abdomen is distended with honey. The queen progeny of many may vary from nearly black to yellow. Now we cannot say that the imported queens that produce dark queen, drone, or worker progeny are *impure*; or claim *purity* for only the bright ones. The dark color does not indicate *impurity* any more than the light color indicates purity. We have seen that the Italian bee is only a variety, and, as such, in breeding, it is liable to sport, or revert back toward the original—sometimes to dark—sometimes to yellow, but still maintaining the three yellow bands as a sort of standard of excellence. Without some standard of excellence or ideal it would be impossible to breed a variety up to a high attainment.

When the breeder of bright yellow bees embodies in his bee vigor of constitution, and an increased capacity for gathering honey, as the prime factors, and color as a secondary consideration—*utility leading beauty*—we shall have the bee of the future. Color, then, in the Americanized Italian will indicate excellence in the bee, and the insect itself will stand as a monument to the skill, patience and perseverance of its developers.

J. P. H. BROWN.

The report of the Auditing Committee showed the finances of the Association to be as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Balance on hand after St. Joseph convention	\$28 23
Dues paid at Toronto convention	36 00
Total.	\$64 23
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Salary of Secretary at Toronto	\$25 00
Other expenses in connection with Toronto convention and previous to meeting (such as Badges, Programs, etc.)	31 70
Total.	\$56 70
Balance on hand	\$7 53
W. COUSE, D. W. HEISE, } COM. GEO. W. YORK,	

In the list of those who paid their annual dues, on page 614, these should have appeared: Rev. Emerson T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo., and Geo. F. Leslie, Braeburn, Pa.

In the list of Life Members present, on the same page, should be the name of J. T. Calvert, Medina, Ohio.

The convention adjourned to meet in 1896 at the call of the Executive Committee. W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Sec.

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## Contributed Articles.

On Important Aparian Subjects.

### How and Why I Number Colonies.

BY J. W. SOUTHWOOD.

While W. Z. Hutchinson and Dr. C. C. Miller, and others, are discussing the numbering of colonies and kind of tag best to use, I will give my method, and some of the reasons why.

I winter my bees on the summer stands, and therefore do not need a number on both hive and location. I use a stand 3 to 4 inches high, and an alighting-board beveled on one edge so as to fit close against the front end of the hive-bottom and slope down on an angle of about 40°. These are not painted, and on them I place the numbers with white paint; the figures are some three or more inches long, with lines a half inch or so wide, so they can be seen at a distance.

I practice clipping the queens and hiving the swarm on the old stand, and do not move the number, so the same number remains with the same queen while she lives.

I face all hives the same way, so that when standing in front the numbers are easily seen.

I have a piece of plank of sufficient size, lined with lead-pencil, and also lines of the same drawn vertically so as to make as many columns as desired. In one column I give the number of colonies, in another the year when queens were hatched; in another, whence queens were obtained; in another, when the swarm issued; in another, the number of the colony produced by the swarm, etc.; at the last a larger column for general remarks, etc. This plank has the year marked at the top, and is kept in a convenient place. The next year I turn the board over, and the next I dress off the first used side and turn back. If before dressing off I desire something kept, I transfer to a book, which is seldom, as I always have the last record to transfer in part to the other side of the plank.

By this method I find it very convenient to tell where and when to obtain queen-cells, provided I desire to obtain such cells after prime swarms issued; and when to destroy queen-cells if I wish to prevent after-swarms by this method. The numbers serve a good purpose when talking of certain colonies or queens, and when certain work is turned into other hands when I am called away, as I am sometimes, etc.

Remember, I want the colony numbered, but not the hive. Monument City, Ind.



### Bees and Honey-Plants in Utah.

BY E. S. LOVESY.

While this is looked upon as an "off year" among the bees here, in some localities the bees have swarmed a great deal, and in others they have not swarmed at all. There are several causes for this. In some localities the season is colder and later than in others. Some have a great deal of fruit and locust bloom, while others have to depend upon the lucern fields or sweet clover. Some of our bee-keepers complain of a poor honey-flow this season. Then, again, I have received letters from many bee-keepers, covering several counties, saying that the honey-flow is very good—some even say that it is the best they have ever seen. The following sentence is from a letter by J. A. Smith, of Heber, Wasatch county:

"MR. LOVESY:—We are having the best honey-flow here now that we ever had since I have owned bees. The honey is very white; it is gathered from white clover and lucern. From one swarm, hived June 12, I extracted on July 19, 70 pounds, and on July 28, 80 pounds; and now, Aug. 7, they have fully 80 pounds, as they have 16 Langstroth frames 17 $\frac{3}{4}$  nearly capped."

While the above is not at all remarkable, it is a good yield. Every year, in favored localities, and under favorable conditions, we hear of large yields of honey; but if we judge from the reports received from different parts of Utah the present season, it proves that the heavy yield of honey is more extended than usual. Still, with all this success in many localities, there are a number of places where the yield of honey has been light. There are several causes for this. One of our main honey-producing plants has been almost a total failure in many places this year, namely, the sweet clover. In many places, prior to the middle of August, the bees did not work on it at all, and in some places since that date they have worked on it but very little.

Lucern, or alfalfa, is on top this year; the yield of honey

from this plant the present season, in some localities, has been enormous. Rocky Mountain honey-plant, white clover, catnip, and other honey-producing plants have given large yields of honey in some places, but lucern has been by far the main honey-producing plant. In two apiaries, each in the midst of from three to four hundred acres of lucern, and located about 10 miles apart, the bees have gathered from 100 to 200 pounds per colony. A few of them have gathered fully 300 pounds. While lucern can be relied upon as a very good honey-producer, it does not always yield as much as it has this season. This is a curious feature with all, or nearly all, of the honey-producing plants. One year they will yield large amounts of honey. Then the next there may be a partial or total failure. Viewing our honey-plants from this stand-point, I do not think it will pay to cultivate any plant that needs re-planting every year, unless they are self-sowing, and can take care of themselves—such as sweet clover, cleome or Rocky Mountain bee-plant, and others. After once being planted, if the soil, climate and conditions are suitable for them, it is almost impossible to kill them out, and, like lucern, they like a rich, dry, sandy loam, and they all will stand the drouth as well, or better, than most other plants.

The lucern, when once planted, is good for almost any number of years. There are many lucern fields here in Utah that have been planted 30 years or more, and they grow from five to nine tons of hay to the acre, as good as when first planted. Thus it will be seen that while it is a very good honey-plant, for a forage plant it is one of the best. But I do not think it would do very well in dry land, where solid rock or hard-pan is near the surface, as in that case the roots could not get down to moisture. This plant has been written up sufficiently in the American Bee Journal; it is easy to plant, and the seed is cheap. If I wished to try it, I would prepare the soil in the fall, and sow the seed as soon as the ground is dry enough to work in the spring.

While good honey-secreting plants are necessary to success in bee-keeping, there are other conditions necessary to success besides honey-plants. One is management. We often find too many bee-owners, but not enough bee-keepers. To dump bees into a nail-keg, or a dry-goods box, or even into a hive, and let them do as they like, or as they can, and when full let them lie out on the box or hive, or swarm out and fly off, will not bring success. I know of a number of colonies in this condition, and they give little or no returns to the owners. But with proper management, as far as Utah is concerned, unless something unusual occurs, the bees will always pay the owner for his care and attention.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 23.



### Hunting Wild Bees—How to Do It.

BY J. H. ANDRE.

September 19 being one of those rare days "just right for bee-hunting," I packed my kit and hied to a favorable locality some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles away. The timber was scattering hardwood from which the denser growth of hemlock had been taken some years before. Bees were found on asters, which grew in profusion, and set to work on a comb containing thin sugar syrup. The line seemed to be what is known among bee-hunters as a "wide line," or two lines nearly in the same direction. The first move from the clearing into the woods some 40 rods was "off the line," as but few bees came to the scent. A return of part way, and on a somewhat different course, soon gave a strong line. A move of 50 rods without any bees coming to the scent proved I was beyond the tree. Returning half the distance to an open spot in the woods, the bees came immediately, and a glance up a huge maple showed me the colony.

Returning on the line to where the bees were first worked in the woods (and a filled comb had been left to keep the line working in case the bees failed to come to the comb further on), I made an examination of the bees, and found them all of one size and shape, which every one that has knowledge of bees knows that it proves they belonged to the same colony.

I was on the point of packing my kit and starting for home, when I noticed a bee take a somewhat different course than towards the tree found. A close watch showed another line without a single bee going towards the tree found. This is the general outcome of two colonies in different localities working on small pieces of comb. One will retire and leave the others in possession of the sweets. The line was followed some 30 rods, and this time they were located in a dead maple stub of a tree, some 40 feet in height.

The next day being pleasant, more bees were set to work in another locality. They seemed the same "wide line" of

the day before. Several moves brought me through the woods half a mile away. The bees came quickly, and still led on towards an apiary. This dampened my spirits somewhat, but two sizes of bees had been noticed at the beginning, and returning by a different course, the first tree examined (a maple) contained the colony.

To be a successful bee-hunter one must be a woodsman, use much head-work, have a general knowledge of bees, and much practice at the business.

Lockwood, N. Y.



### Starting an Apiary in California.

BY W. D. FRENCH.

Many Eastern correspondents ask me about starting an apiary in California, having read of the wonderful yields of honey, delightful climate, etc., which abound through the State; and the cheapness at which bees can be bought, all combine to arouse the anxieties of men who wish to get rich within a short time.

Those who anticipate changing their destinies from East to West, should not be led by flattering accounts, imagery or dreamy conclusions.

I do not wish to be understood to say that California is not a good State, as I believe it to be one of the best—its climate cannot be excelled, although back in the mountains, where bees are kept most extensively, and for profit, the mercury registers from  $85^{\circ}$  to  $110^{\circ}$  Fahr., during the greater part of summer, which would make it quite comfortable for a New Englander without his winter suit.

As a rule, all localities in this part of the State, are stocked to their fullest capacity, though by going far enough inland, over grades and precipices, a good location can be found.

As to the price of bees, there are none to be bought in good movable-frame hives, for less than \$3 to \$5. Many of the bee-keepers here are those who know very little of the art or science of the pursuit. There are, however, bees that can be bought for perhaps \$1.50 per colony, in old rickety or Harbison hives.

Those who keep bees as above referred to, are, as a class, ready to sell their product at whatever price offered; buyers understanding the situation much better than those who sell, establish a market price for honey that pleases themselves, to the utter chagrin of the practical apiarist who depends entirely upon the product of the bees.

Dependence upon a good honey season in this country cannot be strictly adhered to, as the previous season fully demonstrates, and I am fully convinced to my own satisfaction that this season's crop has been largely over-estimated.

There is work to be done in this glorious climate by the advanced bee-keeping fraternity, such as will place each individual in a position to dispose of his product without the intervention of a lot of sharks who combine to fatten upon the honest labor of those who toll.

Foster, Calif.



### Some Experiences of the Past Season.

BY GEO. M'CULLOUGH.

I started into the winter last year with 11 colonies, with what seemed to me sufficient stores for winter. I boxed them up with old boards, and packed straw around them, leaving the front and entrance open, and to the south, with a good cover over them, and thought they were in safe condition. But about March 1, one warm day, I looked into the hives and found 3 colonies dead—no honey left—starved! Several other colonies were very scarce. Having only two Miller feeders, I used them on the most needy colonies, while I made 4 or 5 more, and continued to feed gradually until they all bred up well before the elm, maple, willow, and such other things took their attention. So the 8 colonies started nicely, some in 10-frame and some in 8-frame hives.

The season here (southwestern Iowa) was too dry until the last week in May, when we had our first good shower to start vegetation lively.

About May 15 one large 10-frame colony began to lie out, and thinking they lacked room, I took off the half story and put on full story with 10 frames—3 frames of good old comb, and 7 frames with full sheets of foundation—and I thought that would give them room enough, but evidently too late, for they threw off a strong swarm on the 20th—just five days after the top story was supplied for them. The upper story was still left on, and they went to work storing some honey above, and in looking in on them a time or two I

thought I was going to get some honey, and looked no more until July 24, when, on examination, I found six frames well filled with brood. I did not need to be surprised, as there was no queen-excluder below them, and I just lifted out the 6 frames full of brood and bees, and the two adjoining frames pretty well drawn out, and some honey, and set them in an 8-frame hive. The queen was on one of the frames, and was taken to the new hive. Then, of course, I filled up the space in the upper story of the old colony with 8 frames with full sheets of wired foundation. Following that, I took 5 frames of brood and bees from a strong colony, placed them in an 8-frame dovetailed hive, and 3 frames of foundation to fill up; I also put in 5 frames of wired foundation in the old hive after adjusting the frames with bees and brood near the central part of the hive, and put the new frames on the outer part of these. Did I do right in this?

Then I took 3 frames of brood and bees from No. 9, and the same from No. 10 (each 10-frame hives), sprinkled them with flavored water, and put them in an 8-frame hive, filling up with 2 frames of foundation as before, and filling up the old colonies with 3 frames each of wired foundation. (I think full sheets are much better than starters, even large ones, as the bees are so likely to build drone-comb, and it takes them so much longer.)

On June 5, my wife, daughter and I went to a social party two miles north, and after spending the day very pleasantly, until about 5:30 p.m., we started home, and found a small swarm of bees on a bush on the roadside. I got out and went back a short distance to a neighbor's house and obtained a suitable box; cut off the bushes the bees were on, with my pocket-knife, laid them down on the ground, and set the box, mouth down, over them, and as soon as I heard the hum of the bees starting up into the box, we drove home ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mile), then prepared a hive, drove back, and soon hived them. I fastened them up and drove home. They have done nicely, and are a fair colony now. But a swarm left us that day—absence, you see.

On June 12 a good, strong swarm came to us and settled on an apple tree, about two rods north of the apiary, and instead of cutting the large branch with a good many fine wine-saps on it, I took a short step-ladder, nailed four laths on the top step, spread a sheet on it, set it under the bees, then put the hive on the sheet, so that I could just draw the branch down a little and jar the bees off onto the sheet at the entrance of the hive, but careful to shake or brush off all the bees.

I had two swarms to leave me this summer just in the act of trying to hive them, and in both cases the bees started rapidly into the hive, but not finding the queen, I think, they came out again and clustered around the queen, and while I was busy here and there they were gone. I believe that is largely the trouble with bees leaving the hive—after once going into any fairly clean hive—that the queen has not been shaken off with them, or they were queenless; but I never attempt to hive a swarm, of late, except on full sheets of foundation, or some empty comb—it certainly pays well, as you get so much nicer combs, and in much less time, and in that way very little drone-comb.

On June 24, while the swarm did not come to me, it came to a near neighbor (O. D. Fletcher), who told me he could not handle bees, but kindly sent me word to come and get them if I wished. I gladly accepted the offer, and got a very nice, large colony of bright Italians, and they are "rustlers;" have filled their brood-chamber, and about a half dozen shallow frames in the surplus department, with nice honey.

On June 26 another good swarm came to us, and is doing finely—has stored some surplus.

On Aug. 6 a very fair swarm came and settled on the apple-tree before referred to, was hived on full sheets of foundation, and is doing nicely.

We have not had a great honey season. The basswood flow was hindered very much by two cold days and some rainy weather the latter part of June. Our honey-locust flow in May was about the longest and best here this year. I am situated with some timber west, 40 acres on the north, and some on the east, with quite a sprinkling of honey-locust, and it is a fine producer of nectar—perhaps not the finest honey, but in good time and good quantity for brood-rearing.

The editor may think I am rather long-winded this time, for one that has not written often, but I have noticed recently that he desires us, who have kept rather quiet, to give some of our experience, etc., and I take it that we are in a kind of "experience meeting." I have now 21 colonies in fair condi-

tion, but have not taken more than 10 pounds of honey yet, and do not expect to take more than 150 pounds of honey, all told—I will not take any from the brood-chambers.

The American Bee Journal has been a great help to me, and I think it still improves.

Braddyville, Iowa, Sept. 18.

## Questions AND Answers.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

### Cleaning Up Extracting-Combs.

I have perhaps 100 empty extracting-combs that the honey has just been thrown out of. I wish to have them cleaned up by the bees. I would know what to do if the weather was warm, but now it is cold, and "quiet robbing" will not work. Can I place them on the top, or over a colony of bees, and have them clean them up without endangering the life of the colony?

J. P. H.  
Wyanet, Ill., Oct. 14.

ANSWER.—I don't think you'll endanger the life of the colony, but you may endanger the chances of getting the combs as nicely cleaned out as you would like. And I think it quite important that extracting-combs and unfinished sections that are extracted should be thoroughly cleaned out this fall if they are to be used again next year. I don't know of any way they can be thoroughly cleaned except by the bees. When they are put on the hives to be cleaned, the bees don't always take it into their heads to clean them out, especially if the brood-chamber is as well supplied as it should be with stores. Sometimes they clean up the daubiness and store the honey in part of the cells of the same combs. Then what's left candies, and when fresh honey is stored on it in the following season, the fresh honey candies very soon. Of course, if you don't care to have the honey remain liquid, you needn't take pains to avoid the candying.

I'll tell you what I did with a lot of combs this fall: They had a little fall honey stored in them, but not enough to make me care to keep them over, so I wanted the bees to clean them out. I put them in hives, left the hives uncovered at a distance of four rods or so from the apiary, and gave the bees a full chance at them, and they soon left nothing but dry combs with no bad results. But now mind you, I want to warn you about one thing. Don't let the bees get fully to work on the combs and then take them away. If you do, you may have a picnic with robbing at the hives. Leave the combs undisturbed for a few days after they are all cleaned out, and then the bees will keep trying to find some more honey in them rather than to try to force an entrance into some of the hives of weak colonies. There will still be fine days occasionally when bees will work lively on any combs that are exposed.

### Cement Bottom for Bee-Cellar—Wintering.

1. I am building an under-ground cellar for my bees. I intend to have a cement bottom. Have you any objections to cement floors for bee-cellars?

2. Would it do to put the bees in before the cement was perfectly dry?

3. Would you take off the bottom-boards, or not?

4. I gave frames of honey to some of my light colonies to-day, and found that some of my late queens were laying considerable yet. Had I better wait for this brood to hatch out, and have a good flight before I put them in the cellar?

Baraboo, Wis., Oct. 12.

H. H. P.

ANSWERS.—1. On one of my visits to Adam Grimm, he showed me a cellar purposely built to winter bees. It had a cement bottom, and seemed perfectly adapted to its design. Next time I saw him he told me it was a failure. He thought the cement bottom was to blame. Under my house is a cellar 31x33 feet. It was divided in two parts, and one room intended for the bees had a cement floor. Trial showed that bees wintered better in the other part, and for years I have put no bees in the room with cement bottom. So, although it's one of the things that it's hard to be entirely certain about, I think I'd rather not have a cement bottom in a bee-cellar.

2. That depends somewhat on the temperature. If warm

enough, say from 45° to 50°, and especially if the cellar be well ventilated, the moisture from the cement would do no harm. If 40° and lower, they will do much better in a dry atmosphere. Speaking of temperature, I might say that if ventilation and temperature are all right, I think bees will winter all right, cement or no cement, but I think the cement does no good.

3. I'd rather see your bottom-boards before answering. My hives have bottom-boards in the cellar, but the bottom-boards are reversible, and one side is for winter and one for summer. When reversed for winter, there is a space of 1½ inches deep under the bottom-bars, and a deeper space would do no harm. The entrance is the full width of the hive, and 1½ inches deep. With close bottom-boards, as they usually are, I'd rather have them entirely removed in the cellar. Indeed, I'd rather have entire vacancy under my hives than the deep bottom-boards, if it were not for two things. One is, that with the deep bottom-boards I can shut out the mice. The entrance, 12x1½ inches, has put into it a piece of heavy wire-cloth with meshes three to the inch. This effectually excludes the mice, while allowing free passage for the bees, for bees should never be fastened in the hive in winter. The other thing is, that with the deep bottom-boards fastened to the hives, they are always in good shape to be closed up ready for carrying or hauling.

4. I don't know enough to answer this question, but I think I would not consider these late-hatched bees very much, their number being comparatively so small that it is better to consider the welfare of the larger number. In either case it is well to wait for what you can feel reasonably sure will be their last flight in November. Of course, there's a great difference in seasons, some winters being a month later than others.

#### An Experience with a Robbed Colony.

1. I was looking over my bees a few days ago, and I noticed one colony that the bees seemed to be passing in and out pretty lively, and when I examined them I found that the bees that were passing in and out of the hive were robber-bees. They came from another hive about 10 rods away, and they passed right into the hive, just the same as they would their own, and it was a strong colony of bees, too. Why did these bees allow the robber-bees to carry out the honey without offering any resistance?

2. I examined the colony and I found what I thought was a virgin queen, but could not see any brood or eggs in the cells, so I contracted the entrance and left them alone until to-day. I looked at them again, and gave them a comb with some brood and eggs in it. When I went to put the comb in the hive, I noticed a bunch of bees on the bottom of the hive, about as large as a man's fist. I moved the ball a little, and I saw that they were around a queen. I smoked them a little, and they released the queen, and I took her out of the hive and kept her out until sundown this evening, and then I let her in at the entrance. Did I do right with her?

3. What made the bees ball the queen?

4. Do you think it was an old, worn-out queen, or do bees ever ball virgin queens? I could not tell by the looks of the queen whether it was a young queen or an old one that had quit laying.

C. S.

Saltillo, Nebr., Oct. 2.

ANSWERS.—1. Perhaps because they didn't have a good laying queen. For some reason it makes a big difference whether bees have a good queen when it comes to the matter of resisting robbers. Possibly the scent of the queen is the important factor in the case. At any rate it's always considered good practice when a colony is troubled with robbers to see that it has a queen. Sometimes when robbers commence on a queenless colony, if a good queen be given to them in the evening, they will give the robbers so warm a reception the next morning that the latter will give it up for a bad job.

2. I have some doubt whether taking the queen out and putting her back in the evening did any good, and very likely it did no harm.

3. There may have been several reasons why the bees balled the queen. There may have been some imperfection about her that made the bees dissatisfied with her, in which case you will probably find her removed before long. It is also possible that the queen was all right, and your interference made the bees ball her. Sometimes they seem to ball their own queen as a matter of safety, to protect her. It is nothing so very unusual for bees to ball their own queen when she's all right. If left entirely alone they may free her in a short time, and it's probably the safest thing to let them alone. In many cases I've found a queen balled, when I promptly

closed the hive and went about my business, and a few days later found the queen laying all right.

4. I don't know, but I think it more likely, from the circumstances you mention, that it was a virgin queen. Generally you can tell by her looks whether a queen is a virgin or not, and you can always be sure of it if you clip every queen as soon as she lays.

## Notes AND Comments.

CONDUCTED BY

Rev. Emerson T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.

**A Time and Place for Everything.**—“Beehive manufacturers seem to be rather averse to letting the public know of their existence.”—Country Gentleman, June 20, 1895.

This will, no doubt, prove an amusing piece of information to the people who read the various bee-periodicals, as well as to the readers of many agricultural papers. The funny thing about it is that the special article from which the above is taken was sent out all over the country to dealers as an inducement to advertise in the Country Gentleman, and this in the month of June. One of the first lessons for a man in business to learn is that there are times and seasons for all things. In this special case, if the publisher had known anything about the bee-business, it would seem that he would not have expected any manufacturer or dealer to begin an advertisement in his paper in June, neither would he expect people who live a thousand miles away from him, and do largely a local business, to advertise in his locality at all. But these are not the only people who fail to make note of the time and place. There is not a season passes but what I find some bee-keepers who wake up to the fact that their bees need attention after it is too late. When the honey-flow is all over they rush off to some dealer and buy a lot of sections, generally saying, “My bees have everything full below, they must need more room.” No doubt of it! but they needed the room a month before, and increased room will be of no benefit to them now, so far as surplus honey is concerned.

Then, there is the man who had a few pounds of surplus honey to sell. He does not think of time or place. He neglects to develop his home market, and rushes his honey off to the nearest large city, while the weather is hot, and the market is filled to overflow with all kinds of fruit. What is the result? He gets but little for it. Why? First, it was not time to sell honey; second, if it were, he went to the wrong market. A man who sends his honey away as long as there is anyone in his own community who will buy, if properly approached, makes a mistake, in my opinion.

**Fertilization of the Peach.**—The Oregon Experiment Station has issued a bulletin from which the Station Record, published by the United States, quotes the following condensation of facts bearing on the fertilization of this important fruit:

“Experiments were made with peach-trees in a forcing-house to determine their power of self-fertilization. Fertilization was done by hand, a brush being used, by spraying with water when the trees were in full bloom, and by placing a hive of bees in the house. All the fruit was matured on the tree to which the bees had access, while more or less dropped at the stoning period in the case of the trees fertilized by artificial means. A tree protected from the bees and not otherwise fertilized set no fruit whatever.”

It seems strange, in the face of all these facts, coming from various quarters of the globe, that there should be any well-educated men, who have had opportunity to know the facts, who would deny the importance of the bee to the fruit-grower, yet there are such. However, the world moves slowly, and prejudice is sometimes more potent than demonstrated facts. The best bee-keepers can do is to go on holding up these testimonies to the world wherever and whenever opportunity offers. The day is sure to come when the value of our busy little workers will be recognized.

See “Bee-keeper's Guide” offer on page 703.

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## Editorial Budget.

**The Amalgamation Committee**, appointed at the Toronto convention, I understand is nearly ready to make its report. Judging from a "rough draft" of their report (which I have read), it is going to be quite satisfactory. It will be interesting reading. The matter is in the hands of an excellent committee.

**The Toronto Convention Report** is completed in this issue of the Bee Journal. It has run through just seven numbers, and I believe makes a very creditable showing. Surely, the major portion of the convention sessions were very interesting and profitable to those present; and the essays read will equal those of any convention of recent years.

**Messrs. Alderman & Roberts**, prominent Florida bee-keepers, at Wewahitchka, are represented by their honey and bees at the Atlanta Exposition. They have a colony of bees on exhibit in the Agricultural Building, in the "West Florida" space. The bees work out through the wall of the building. The bees are in a glass observatory hive, and attract much attention.

**The Illinois State Bee-Conventions.**—The annual meeting of the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Springfield, Ill., Nov. 19 and 20, 1895. On account of the I. O. O. F. having a grand encampment there at the same time, there will be a reduced rate of a fare and a third for the round trip, all over this State. This should insure a good meeting.

The special meeting of the same Association will be held in Chicago, Jan. 9 and 10, 1896, in the Club Room of the New Briggs House, northeast corner of Randolph St. and Fifth Ave. This will be at the time of the National Cycle Show, when general excursion rates will prevail. A later announcement will give further information concerning this Chicago meeting and railroad rates.

**Honey Commission-Men.**—Last week I had an experience. So did two other people. It was all about some 6,000 pounds of extracted honey a Wisconsin bee-keeper had shipped in August to a Chicago commission firm.

There was a difference of about \$90 between what the bee-keeper thought he should have for his honey, and what the dealer netted him. So the shipper came to Chicago, and not being able to get a satisfactory settlement, he called on

me to see what I would advise, or could do in regard to the matter, although he is not a subscriber to the Bee Journal.

I wasted three hours of valuable time on the matter, and finally effected a compromise—the dealer giving his check for about \$30 (his actual commission) to the shipper. Both then said they were satisfied. So what threatened to result in a lawsuit was peaceably settled.

The whole trouble was, as usual, the result of a misunderstanding. The shipper understood that he was to get 6 cents per pound net for his honey, on board the cars in Wisconsin. The dealer, it seems, had hoped to be able to render such returns, but claimed the honey was extracted before it was ripe, and consequently the flavor was injured by a slight fermentation. The shipper held to it that the honey was all right, but as the dealer had none of it left in his store, I was unable to verify either's statement. So there they were.

Now, bee-keepers, let me say, by all means have a clear and perfect understanding with your dealer, as to price and everything else of importance. See to it that your honey is all right, and if possible sell by sample. Honey, above all things, affords such ample opportunity for causing trouble and loss. No matter how much care is exercised by both dealer and shipper, do not expect that *every* shipment will result in entire satisfaction. It should, but often does not.

**A New Bee-Smoker Factory** is being built by Mr. T. F. Bingham, at Farwell, Mich., where shipping and other advantages for business are unexcelled. The Bingham bee-smokers and uncapping-knife are known wherever modern progressive apiculture has pushed its way.

**Mr. Geo. E. Dudley**, of Provo City, Utah, the genial Secretary of the Utah Bee-Keepers' Association, arrived in Chicago about two weeks ago, having come on ahead of two carloads of fine alfalfa comb honey, which reached here a week later. The two cars contained about 48,000 pounds of honey, one carload having been produced by one man and his children.

I believe it would pay the bee-keepers in every locality where sufficient honey is produced to do it, to make up one or more carloads, and send their best man along to market with it, to dispose of it to the best advantage. It is so much more satisfactory to have the honey, the buyer and the seller all together, for then there is no chance for any misunderstanding. The buyer can inspect the honey properly, and a definite agreement as to price can be settled upon.

**Father Langstroth's Departure** was very affecting, indeed. The following letter written to Editor Root, by Father L.'s daughter—Mrs. Cowan—and published in Gleanings for Oct. 15, describes the last days and moments of his life in a touching manner:

**MR. E. R. Root—Dear Friend:**—I can hardly tell you whether my heart is fuller to-day of sorrow for the loss of my dear father or of joy as I think of his blessed entrance into the land where "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away."

I can give you only a brief account of my father's last days. When asked, the Sabbath previous to his release, by our pastor whether he felt able to make the address at our communion service, he replied, "I shall be most happy to do so," adding, in response to the assurance that, if he did not feel able for it when the time came, he could be relieved. "Oh! I shall be able—it will be a joy to me, Mr. Raber. I am so glad you asked me!" He had been very bright and happy ever since his return from Toronto; but last week he took a heavy cold, and was much oppressed with it; and during the last few days he lost strength so rapidly, and seemed so feeble, that I wished him to notify our pastor not to depend upon his assistance on Sabbath. He was, however, confident

that he could carry out his part in the services, and was so anxious to do so, that I could not insist.

On Sabbath morning he was unusually bright, and overflowing with happiness and gratitude to the Lord for his blessings. My eldest son, with his wife and baby, had been spending a week with us, and he was much pleased with, and proud of, his little great-granddaughter. He asked her mother that morning to wheel her little carriage into his warm room, and I shall not soon forget how happy he looked as he sat beside it, talking to and caressing the little one. They were at the church.

After dressing, father seemed much fatigued, and I again asked him whether he thought it were best for him to try to preach. He replied, "Oh, yes! I will say a few words, and then I will come home and rest, rest, rest." He is most certainly "at rest with the Lord."

Before preaching, Rev. Amos O. Raber moved the pulpit to one side and placed a chair on the front of the platform. Father began to address the audience sitting, with some explanatory remarks as to his weakness. After a few introductory sentences requesting the prayers of the congregation for himself and the service, he said: "I am a firm believer in prayer. It is of the love of God that I wish to speak to you this morning—what it has been, what it is, what it means to us, and what we ought—" As he finished the last word he hesitated; his form straightened out convulsively; his head fell backward, and in about three minutes he was "absent from the body, at home with the Lord."

There was no scene of confusion in the church. Tears were running down every cheek, but there were no screams, no loud sobbing. As one person remarked, "Heaven never seemed so near before; it seemed but a step."

"Then, with no fiery throbbing pain,  
No slow gradations of decay,  
Death broke at once the vital chain  
And freed his soul the nearest way."

Sincerely yours,  
ANNA L. COWAN.

Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 8.

**Bee-Culture Recognized.**—Some of the Western States are taking quite an interest in the subject of bee-keeping, as they ought to do. At least Missouri and Kansas are doing so. I am made aware of this, from the fact that Rev. Emerson T. Abbott has recently been requested to deliver an address on the subject of "The Relation of Bees to Horticulture," at the next meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, to be held Dec. 3, 4 and 5, at Neosho, Mo.

Mr. Abbott has also been invited by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture to address them at their next annual meeting, to be held at Topeka, Jan. 8, 9 and 10, 1896, on the subject of "Bee-Rearing and Honey-Production for Farmers." Secretary F. D. Coburn, when extending this invitation to Mr. Abbott, said:

"The purpose of this would be to point out to our people the feasibility and ways and means of every farmer having, if he will, an abundance of honey for home use and to spare, with almost no expense, by simply utilizing the abundant free materials around him permitted to 'waste their sweetness on the desert air.'"

While the above speaks well for Mr. Abbott, it also plainly shows that those interested in horticulture and general farming are awaking to the importance of bee-culture as an aid to the fruit-grower and to the farmer. It is earnestly hoped that other horticultural societies and State boards of agriculture may go and do likewise, as there is in nearly every State some one who is abundantly able to present the subject of bee-culture in its proper light, and who would at the same time be doing a grand service to those interested in rural industries.

**Mr. Alfred H. Newman**, manager of the Cedar Rapids Candy Company, of Iowa, called at the Bee Journal office on Saturday, Oct. 19. He was for years a member of the well-known firm of Thomas G. Newman & Son, of Chicago, who were prominent dealers in bee-keepers' supplies and publishers of the Bee Journal previous to June 1, 1892. At that time the Bee Journal was sold to the present publishers, and the bee-supply business continued by Thomas G. Newman until Sept. 16, 1895, when he sold out to The A. I. Root Co.

## Among the Bee-Papers

Gleaned by Dr. Miller.

### LONG-DISTANCE MAILING-CAGE.

A. E. Manum describes in Gleanings a cage for mailing long distances that seems admirably adapted for that purpose. It contains at each end two of the usual compartments filled with Good candy, and a central compartment with honey in the comb. Outside, the cage measures  $7\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ , and weighs, ready to mail, five ounces. It holds 75 or 80 bees, with food to last at least 60 days.

### RAPE AS A HONEY-PLANT, ALSO FOR CATTLE, HOGS, AND SHEEP.

I received one pound of rape seed last spring, and sowed perhaps a third of it on poor, sandy land, and my bees just fairly swarmed on it for fully one month; and I also cut it up to feed my hogs on, and they ate it in preference to corn. I had the rape along my pasture fence, and was compelled to cut up all near the fence to prevent their reaching through to get at the rape, and my cattle were not short of pasture, either. I think it is one of the best honey-plants I ever saw, not even excepting white clover. I do not know how much honey my bees gathered from rape, simply because I was running them for increase this year; and I thrashed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of seed.—JAS. PRATT, in Gleanings.

### RIPE HONEY FOR WINTER AND SPRING.

G. M. Doolittle says in Gleanings: "In my opinion, upon the injudicious use of the extractor is chargeable much of the loss of bees in winter; for where we hear of large yields of honey taken with the extractor late in the season, we almost always hear of a corresponding loss of bees by the same parties the next spring. To overcome this difficulty it is better to set aside enough combs of thoroughly ripened, sealed honey during the season to winter our bees; and then, when the honey-yield is over, exchange combs with the bees, extracting all that is left in the combs taken from the bees, if we so desire. In this way we are sure that the bees have such honey as they ought to have to winter on. This applies only to those who are prone to extract too closely during the season; but it is a good plan to work a few colonies for such combs of thoroughly ripened honey to be used in case of emergency, no matter how the bees are worked."

### SECOND-HAND SQUARE OIL-CANS.

After a 20-years' experience, using thousands of cans, I am better satisfied with good oil-cans than to buy new ones. I have bought Lower California honey in new cans that were made of poor or lead tin, and so poorly put together that nearly all were in a leaky condition; but good oil-cans, always rejecting those that are rusty inside, being crimped at the seams, very seldom leak there, and, if well cleaned, I like better than the new ones made on this coast. I give 8 to 10 cents for them. I melt off the four faucets by setting four cans, with the corners that have the the faucets, together, putting a shovel of hot coals on them. A good worker can clean about 100 in a day by putting in a handful of unslacked lime in each, with three or four quarts of boiling water. After it is slacked, rinse it well, and afterward rinse out twice with cold water, washing them twice with lime. In that way it will clean them perfectly.—S. S. BUTLER, in Gleanings.

### IS THE HONEY-BEE INDIGENOUS TO THIS COUNTRY?

The only authority quoted by Dr. Belknap for the probable existence of the bee in any part of the United States is the finding of a single pot of honey by the expedition of DeSoto at a place called Chiaha, on an island surrounded by shallow water, supposed to be on the upper part of the Mobile river, in Southern Georgia. I have referred to the narrative, as translated by Purchas, and find that this was the only honey seen or heard of by the expedition, which met with no bees. The granaries and storehouses of the natives were constantly ransacked by these needy Spaniards, from June, 1539, to July, 1543; and Barton pertinently remarks, "Had the honey-bee been a native of the countries which were the scene of DeSoto's villainies, the valuable products of this insect would have been frequently met with, and the bees, in territories pregnant with a profusion of nectareous plants, would have been seen very often, and in great numbers."

In addition to the above I may add that I have carefully

consulted the narratives of many early travelers, from Father Hennepin down, and find no mention of honey having been met with on any occasion than as above stated. Had the Indians possessed honey, would they not have set it before some of their guests? and would the latter, who mention everything else they met with, have forgotten honey?

In conclusion, as no one pretends that the honey-bee was found in New England, as Josselyn, who, in 1638, must have known the first English settlers, and been familiar with their doings here, says expressly that they introduced our beloved insect, I think we may very safely dispense with the Norwegian theory of their introduction, and assume that the *Apis mellifica* is a valuable European insect, for whose introduction we are indebted (as for many other blessings) to the people of the Mayflower, or their immediate followers.

The foregoing is from a letter written to L. L. Langstroth in 1864, by his brother-in-law, Wm. G. Malin, and now published in Gleanings.

## Southern Department.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. J. P. H. BROWN, AUGUSTA, GA.

[Please send all questions relating to bee-keeping in the South direct to Dr. Brown, and he will answer in this department.—ED.]

### Keeping a Hive-Record.

I don't use any tags, nor do I paint the numbers on the hives, but have the plan of the apiary in my record book thus:

Honey-House.							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
3	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
4	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
5	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
6	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
7	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
8	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
10	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
11	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
12	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
13	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
14	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
15	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
16	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

If I want to look in, say hive D, 10, I don't need to step in front of the hives and look for the number, but can stand in any part of the apiary, count down on row D, and make a bee-line for hive D, 10.

My record-book is 3x6 inches, just right for a hip-pocket, and it is a great satisfaction to sit down in the evening after a day's work with the bees, and go through the book to see what I have done, and map out my next day's work. Try it next season, and you will wonder that you could do so long without a record-book.

R. V. SAUER.  
Brackettville, Tex.

### Keeping Empty Combs.

On page 503, Mr. G. W. Demaree names a problem for those who know a great deal about impracticable things, and especially for the practical bee-keepers, viz.: "Give us the best, cheapest, cleanly way of keeping empty combs when not in use."

I know that "impracticable things" are impracticable—I am trying to make a living by keeping bees, and I do nearly

all the work myself. I keep about 100 colonies for extracted honey, and have not lost any combs or had them injured since I built my honey-house, five years ago.

I have a room 4x8x8 feet, ceiled so as to be bee-tight, with a small window in the rear end to give light. Strips, one inch square and eight feet long, are nailed horizontally on either side, and two inches further apart than the depth of the frame I use. These strips are for rests for other strips that hold the combs. These latter strips are 1½ inches by ½, and four feet in length. Two of these strips I place upon the lower horizontal strips at the rear end of the room, and hang the combs upon them as they are hung in the hives; then another tier, until the top of the room is reached. Then one strip is used for each lot of combs, allowing one end of the frames to rest upon the strip used in the previous tier.

When the combs are put into the room they should be fumigated with sulphur—two weeks later fumigate again, and, afterward, once in six weeks. I know this method is sure, and I am persuaded that it is as cheap and as cleanly as filling the combs with salt or gasoline.

A room as described above will hold about 1,200 combs. In fumigating, I use an old oven (a relic of the past). Fill it half full of burning coals, set it in the room, pour into it a half pound of sulphur, and shut the door.

Bessemer, Ala. C. C. PARSONS.

### Something More About Crimson Clover.

I have noticed with pleasure the increasing interest shown by the American Bee Journal in the culture of crimson clover as a honey-plant.

I have sown it for several years, and have every year large fields of it. In walking through it when in bloom it seems that almost every blossom has a bee on it. It produces a fine grade of honey, and, unlike red clover, the bees can readily get at the nectar.

Valuable as it is for honey, it is one of the most profitable crops that can be grown. Among its advantages are these:

1. It grows in the winter, and prevents the land from washing.
2. It is cut in the spring, and the ground can then be utilized for another crop, thus getting two crops off the land per year.
3. Unlike the clover, you do not have to wait a year for a crop.
4. It yields more abundantly than red clover a kind of forage which horses and cattle prefer to almost any other.
5. According to the reports of the experiment stations, its nutritive value is of the highest. I know that my horses keep in the best condition on it.
6. It never causes "slobbering," as red clover often does.
7. It can be grown on sandy land where red clover will not thrive.
8. It yields twice as much seed as red clover.
9. But its greatest value is as a fertilizer, and as such is the best and cheapest known. It possesses more highly than any other leguminous plant the power of conveying to the soil the nitrogen of the atmosphere. Its roots go deeper into the soil than red clover, and are more numerous. It loosens up stiff clay land, which, after awhile, becomes as friable as if sand had been mixed with the soil. It has been shown by one of the experiment stations that an expenditure of \$2.65 on crimson clover as a fertilizer put as much nitrogen in the soil as \$15 worth of nitrogen purchased in commercial fertilizers.

As a good example of its value: I came into possession of a field which would not produce over 20 bushels of corn to the acre. By using about 25 bushels of ashes to the acre, and returning to the field the manure from the crops which grew on it, last spring, harvested the heaviest crop of clover hay grown in this valley, and have to-day nearly ready for gathering a crop of corn of 75 bushels to the acre.

As a grower of this clover may I correct some errors in the articles in relation to it which have appeared in the Bee Journal? It is useless to sow it in the spring, as it will not thrive. It must be sown in the late summer or fall, according to location. Shallow cultivation of the land will not do; the ground must be plowed deeply, if it has not been so treated some time during the season. It can be sown in the corn at the last cultivation, and harrowed in with a very fine-toothed cultivator. If sown in the open field it should be brushed in.

The bee-keeper who sows this clover may not only make his crop of honey, but his crop of hay; have his land in far better condition than before, and ready for a crop of some kind as usual. Besides, his eyes will be brightened by the most beautiful field of waving color he has ever seen.

Lynn, N. C. E. B. THOMAS.

**CANADIAN BEEDOM.****Outside the Bee-Papers.**

Dr. Miller gleans very carefully "Among the Bee-Papers." I am all the time doing similar work outside the bee-papers, and occasionally find something well worthy of transference into the columns of the American Bee Journal. The poetic effusion which I copied from The Outlook, and which appeared in the Bee Journal of Oct. 3, is an example in point. Here is a gem which I found in a recent number of the New York Independent. It is by Blanche Nevins, whose pardon I ask for small alterations:

**THE SNAKE AND THE BEE.**

Snake and Bee go browsing over Hill and valley, grass and clover.

Eager each upon her quest,  
Choosing that she loveth best.

While within the Bee the food  
Turns to honey, sweet and good,

In the Serpent it will change  
Into poison, bad and strange.

Therefore, let the eyes that read  
Note the moral and give heed:

Life, which close environs thee,  
Holds each possibility.

May our days, then, fellow-man,  
Bring forth honey if we can.

New York, N. Y.

**The Bull and the Bees.**

A Canadian story by Prof. Charles D. Roberts, of Windsor, Nova Scotia, appears in a recent number of the New York Independent, and tells, in a very graphic manner, how the occupants of a bee-hive were the means of saving a young girl from being gored to death by a savage bull. Of course the story will suffer by being abbreviated and condensed, but even when thus operated on, enough of the interest will remain to secure for it an attentive reading.

Nannie Miller hardly knew whether to consider herself a country girl or a town girl. Her home was in the city of Montreal, but she spent the summer and autumn in New Hampshire, on her grandfather Miller's farm. There was one drawback to her enjoyment of country life, which was, that she was desperately afraid of cows, however quiet they might be. On a neighboring farm there was a Jersey bull famed for his viciousness of temper. Of this bull the children of the village near by spoke in tones of terror, and Nannie had heard dreadful tales of his ferocity. One sunny afternoon Nannie started for the village to mail a letter. She made her way down the broad pathway, about 60 yards in length, which led through an old-fashioned garden to the highway. On either side of this path were clumps of shrubs and flowers, rows of peas and beans, thickets of artichoke and sunflower, all beds of vegetables. On one side an array of bee-hives faced the path. At the foot of the path a slight, white gate led out to the road, through a hedge of thorns and lilacs.

After passing through the gate she had not gone far before she heard a

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sound at which her heart stood still. It was the mumbbling bellow and grunt of an angry bull. The sound came from just beyond a grove which hid from view a turn in the road. She swung around and sped like a bird for the little white gate. A moment later Farmer Hopkins' bull came trotting around the turn and at once espied the fleeing girl. Unfortunately she carried a crimson silk parasol, which acted on the bull as a red flag does in Spanish bull-fights. She thought of this in the midst of her flight, and letting go her hold of the parasol, it soared for a little in the air and then descended in the middle of the road just ahead of the bull. It diverted his attention for a moment, while he rent it in pieces and trampled it under his feet. As Nannie seized the latch of the gate she gave one wild glance behind her. The bull had just completed the destruction of the parasol, and was again thundering at her heels.

Rushing through the gate she slammed it behind her, but it did not latch. It swung a little way open. Not daring to go back and fasten it, she sped along, and there not being time enough to reach the house, she fled aside, darted between the bee-hives and the pea rows, and rushed down between the clumps of currant bushes. Just as the bull, having wrenched the little gate from its hinges and tossed it contemptuously over his shoulder, plunged into the garden, Nannie tripped on her skirt and fell headlong between the bushes.

The fall saved her. The bull would certainly have caught sight of her flying garments, but she was quite hid from his view. She had the presence of mind to realize this, and to crouch down in the smallest space that would contain her. Here, through the pea-sticks and vines and weeds, she could see her pursuer standing in the flower-bed by the path and staring in fierce uncertainty around the apparently deserted garden. Presently, after tearing up a clump of dahlias, the bull trotted over before the bee-hives. The bees were out in great force that afternoon. The fronts of some of the hives were black with them, and they hung in clusters and knots trying to cool themselves. The bull halted just before one of the largest colonies. He was hot and the bees did not enjoy his presence. As they buzzed angrily about his head, he shook his ears, then dug his horns into the ground and threw a shower of earth over the nearest hive. The bees took this as a challenge and were not slow to accept it. He felt several hot stings in his ears, and lowering his horns again with a grunt of indignation, he threw another shower of earth. Then the bees began to cover his hide and riddle it with their stings. They thrust venomously at his eyes, his ears, and his nostrils, till he was mad with pain.

The astonished animal switched his tail, skipped about with short bellowings of rage and threatening, and rooted his smarting nose in the soft earth. Bees were a new experience with him. But he was not long in connecting them with the white hive that so boldly confronted him. He would crush it and destroy his tormentors. Throwing his heels high in air, the bull launched himself on the bee-hive. Over it went with a dull crash, and in a black cloud out came the bees. The bull felt a myriad of little flames descend upon him scorchingly, but with quivering skin he endured them for a

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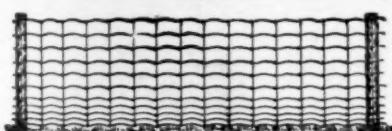
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moment, while his horns and mighty forehead made kindling wood of the hive. He lifted his head with a roar of triumph, the honey streaming down his face and bits of comb dropping from his horns and ears. Nannie was forgotten, and from her hiding-place thankfully saw that in the bees she had found a potent ally.

To Nannie's eyes, the bull seemed wrapped in a cloud of black gauze, so thickly swarmed the bees about him. Meantime, as the poison of the stings took effect, the bull bounded desperately into the air, unable to endure the terrible torment. Then bellowing shrilly with pain and fury, he plunged forward into the raspberry thicket, and dashed through it right up to the garden fence. The branches scraped off many of his assailants, and bewildered his pursuers. When he reached the fence, he wheeled and galloped madly back across the garden, passing within a little distance of Nannie's hiding-place. Down went corn and sunflower, hollyhock and larkspur, before that blind charge. A moment later he caught sight of the open gateway, and rushed through it, carrying away a post as he went, and thundered up the road out of sight and hearing.

When he was surely gone, Nannie kept cautiously out of the range of the infuriated bees, crouching low among the peas, currant bushes, and raspberry canes, creeping as fast as possible toward the house. Last she stole through a high covert of artichokes, beyond which the bees were not circling. She ran indoors and upstairs, where her grandmother, awakened from her afternoon sleep by the roaring of the bull, was standing at the window, speechless with wrath at the destruction which had been wrought among the bees and garden products, and little did she dream of the peril from which Nannie had just escaped. Only after a wild burst of tears was the poor, frightened girl able to recount the danger that had befallen her, and her fortunate escape by means of the bees.



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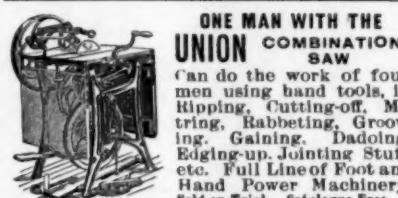
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**Honey & Beeswax Market Quotations.**

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 16.—We never had as good inquiry for honey as this fall, and never sold as much. We have not received as good prices owing to the amount of California stock unloaded on this market, which was sold at a very low price, both comb and extracted. We quote: No. 1 and fancy, 13@15c.; amber and dark, 8@11c. Extracted, 5@7c. Beeswax, 28c. J. A. L.

BUFAALO, N. Y., Oct. 14.—Honey in good demand. We quote: Fancy, mostly 16c.; choice, 14@15c.; buckwheat, sells slowly at 10@12c. Extracted very quiet. Will advance liberally upon all choice shipments of honey. Beeswax wanted at 28@30c. B. & Co.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 14.—There is more activity in the comb market, with prices of 15c. for fancy; other grades in proportion. Extracted dull, ranging 4@7c., according to quality. Beeswax, 27@30c. R. A. B. & Co.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 19.—We quote: Fancy white comb, 1-lbs., 14c.; No. 1 white, 13c.; amber, 12@12c.; buckwheat, 10c. Extracted, as to quality and style of package, 5@6c. Beeswax, 30c. S. T. F. & Co.

KANSAS CITY, MO., Oct. 4.—The demand for comb is fair, with a fair supply; extracted in light demand. We quote: No. 1 white, 1-lbs., 13@14c.; No. 2, 12@13c.; No. 1 amber, 11@12c.; No. 2, 8@10c. Extracted, white, 6@6c.; amber, 5@5c.; dark, 4@4c. Beeswax, 20@21c. C. C. C. & Co.

ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 7.—Receipts of honey, as well as demand, have increased some, and the weather being cooler, I think this month and for part of next, as usual, will be the best time to market honey. We quote: White comb, 14@15c.; mixed, 12@13c.; dark, 10@12c. Extracted, white, 6@6@7@8c.; mixed, 6@6c.; buckwheat, 5@5c. H. R. W.

CINCINNATI, O., Oct. 23.—Supplies of all kinds are rather scarce yet, and arrivals find ready sales. Choke white comb honey sells at 14@16c., in a jobbing way. Extracted, 4@7c.

Beeswax is in good demand at 20@25c. for good to choice yellow. C. F. M. & S.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Sept. 11.—New crop of comb honey is arriving and while the receipts from N. Y. State are light, we are receiving large quantities from California. Had two cars of choice comb and have several more to follow. On account of warm weather the demand is rather light as yet. We quote: Fancy white, 1-lbs., 15@16c.; fair white, 12@13c. No demand as yet for buckwheat and dark honey. Extracted is plentiful, especially California and Southern. We quote: California, 5@5c.; white clover and basswood, 6@6c.; Southern, 4@5c. a gallon. Beeswax in fair demand and firm at 28@29c. H. B. & S.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Sept. 23.—The market for comb and extracted honey is now open. Comb honey is not arriving as freely as expected, presumably on account of the prolonged heat, but it is selling very well, considering the hot weather we have had this time of the year. Of extracted honey there is quite a supply on the market; California and Southern with a fair demand. We are quoting comb honey to-day as follows: Fancy, 1-lbs., 15c.; 2-lbs., 14@15c.; white, 1-lbs., 13@14c.; 2-lbs., 12@13c.; fair, 1-lbs., 11@12c.; 2-lbs., 10@11c.; buckwheat, 1-lbs., 10@11c.; 2-lbs., 8@9c. Extracted, clover, 5@7c.; buckwheat, 5@5c.; Southern, 50@60c. per gallon. Beeswax is in fair demand, with supply limited; average stock, 27@28c.; fancy yellow, 29c. C. I. & B.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Oct. 23.—Honey is selling freely, and good, choice comb sells on arrival. Pure Western extracted white clover sells very quickly and is in big demand. We quote: Fancy white clover, 16c.; choice, 14c.; dark, 11c. Extracted, 5@6@7@8c.; pure white clover, 8@9c. Beeswax will not, in our judgment, advance much more, as it did last year, large quantities having been laid up at low prices. It sells fairly well at 26c. on arrival. W. A. S.



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**RURAL LIFE.**—Its scope is as broad as its title, and the matter is presented in a concise, "boiled-down" manner, giving the experience of many in few words. Among the subjects treated are these: Economy; Prosperity and Adversity; Character; Health; Remedies; Mistakes of Life; Domestic and Household Affairs; Planting and Culture of Vegetables, Planting, Culture, Trimming and Training Vines, Trees and Plants, Bees, Poultry, Live-Stock and Farm Topics, etc., with comprehensive Index. 100 pages. Price, 25 cents.

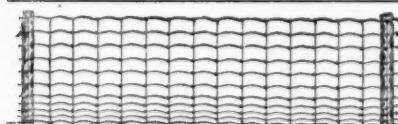
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**Binders** for this size of the American Bee Journal we can furnish for 75 cents each, postpaid; or we will club it with the Bee Journal for a year—both for \$1.60. We have a few of the old size (6x9) Binders left, that we will mail for only 40 cents each, to close them out.

### General Items.

#### A Good Crop of Honey.

We had a continuous honey-flow from June 1 till Sept. 20, and have a good crop of honey. E. E. PERKINS.

Little, Nebr., Oct. 14.

#### A Very Dry Season.

My six colonies last winter wintered well on the summer stands, and without any packing on top of the frames. I now have 10 colonies in fine condition. I had only one swarm, and found three bee-trees. The past season has been a very dry one, and the drought and forest fires cut my honey crop very short. I got only 230 pounds of section honey. A. P. GREEN.

McMurray, Wash., Oct. 12.

#### Bee-Keeping in Arizona.

I have had bees three years, and it is a very uncertain country here, as we have a great amount of wind in the spring—in April, May, and part of June—that chills and blasts the fruit-bloom every other year, at least. We can't count on much surplus honey, if any, until the alfalfa begins to blossom—about June 15—and from that time until Sept. 10 or 15 we have a pretty fair yield. There are quite a number of bee-keepers here that have from one to 20 colonies. We have an association organized

on a small scale, with your humble servant as President.

My bees are in a strong and thriving condition. I use the Langstroth frame, 8 and 10 to the hive. I find that in working for extracted honey that the 10-frame hive is the best for our locality. It gives the queen ample room in the brood-chamber. I have extracted twice from my 10-frame hives this year, and only once from the others.

JOSEPH A. LEWIS.

Taylor, Ariz., Sept. 29.

#### In Fine Condition for Winter.

This has been a nice fall for our bees. My 60 colonies are all in No. 1 condition for winter. R. E. FORBES.

St. George, Vt., Oct. 14.

#### Results of the Past Season.

Last spring I bought 10 colonies of bees, mostly in box-hives. I made two colonies, making me 12 colonies in all. This fall I took off 800 pounds of comb honey in one-pound sections, and have 12 of the Heddon hives nicely filled, ready to give the bees next spring if they need them. I have transferred most of the bees into the Heddon hives.

I am badly "stuck" on the New Heddon hive. I am satisfied that I can take care of 100 colonies in the Heddon hives easier than I can in any other hive I have ever used.

I have my bees all packed just as Mr. Heddon directs, and it looks now as though they would winter all right. The great drawback here has been in wintering bees. I have kept bees off and on, for the last 20 years. The nearest I ever came to wintering bees successfully was by Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton's plan.

WM. CRAIG.

Luce, Mich., Oct. 18.

#### The Season of 1895.

I sold 200 pounds of my honey yesterday at 12½ cents, which is the first that I ever took to market.

This is my third season, and the first one to get any honey to amount to much. It was so dry here that our bees only made their living until July 20, when they began business in good earnest, and kept it up until Aug. 15. From 9 colonies, spring count, I secured 585 pounds of honey, and nine-tenths of it is very white. One colony that did not swarm filled 185 one-pound sections, and their work is first-class. They are in a 10-frame Langstroth hive.

I like the American Bee Journal very much, and have learned a great deal by reading it. I can see where others miss it by not taking it.

F. C. McCORMICK.

Custer, Mich., Oct. 16.

#### Phenol Cure for Foul Brood.

On page 590, we find what W. F. Clarke tells the Mercury reporter about phenol as a cure for foul brood. I have had some experience with foul brood, but have not tried phenol, nor do I think I shall till I have better encouragement than Mr. Clarke gives. He says:

"The remedy was then published to the world. It was tried by many bee-keepers in Britain, on the Continent, in the United States, and by a few in Canada, all of whom failed to make it a success."

He says this method is "scientific"—a term nearly synonymous with "humbug," when used in relation to patent medicines and patent rights.

I think the drug may "kill both the microbe and the spore" with which it comes in contact; but as every cell in the hive which has ever contained the diseased larvae or foul honey, contains the germ of the disease, it must be necessary first to have the bees consume all the honey on hand, and then feed such quantity of medicated syrup as will fill all the comb in the hive. Very likely the disease may be held

in check so long as the bees are using the medicated syrup—which probably deceived Mr. Cheshire and Mr. Clarke; but every cell in the hive must be disinfected before there can be a complete cure.

Even if this treatment were a success, there would be a great obstacle in the way of its application here in this Western country, where alfalfa is largely grown, as we are likely to have a continuous light flow of honey from early spring till late fall, and he who finds his bees diseased in spring may have to wait six months before he can treat them, and then he finds he needs no remedy. I. W. BECKWITH.  
Grover, Colo.

#### Bees Did but Little this Season.

Bees have done very little this season. I have 24 colonies. J. B. RESSLER.  
Shellrock, Iowa, Oct. 11.

#### Kingbirds—Robber-Bees.

I have noticed what T. S. Ford has said regarding kingbirds. If they are what we have always called bee-martins, I would advise watching them closely, and if you don't want to be bothered too much with drones, let them go their way, for they are drone-catchers. If you don't believe it, shoot one on the wing when it flies up and makes its grab, and see what it has in its bill when it falls. Again, notice the time of day it does its work. Notice if you ever see them fly after bees early in the morning, or see them around after the bees kill off their drones. I have often thought, and yet think, that they often make a mistake and kill a queen, and leave a colony queenless.

If you have a colony robbing others, find the one doing the robbing, and break some of their comb, and see how quickly they will turn their attention to their home.

We have had another hard season in this locality—too dry. I will have to feed some for winter. ANDREW COTTON.  
Pollock, Mo., Oct. 19.

#### Not a Favorable Season.

The past season was not very favorable for honey here—July was too dry, although I got about 1,000 pounds of comb honey from 30 colonies I had in the spring, and 20 new swarms. I live 45 miles west of Montreal, on the St. Lawrence river. The honey season is very short here.

ZEPH. BOYER.  
Valleyfield, Quebec, Oct. 12.

**Queens and Queen-Rearing.**—If you want to know how to have queens fertilized in upper stories while the old queen is still laying below; how you may safely introduce any queen, at any time of the year when bees can fly; all about the different races of bees; all about shipping queens, queen-cages, candy for queen-cages, etc.; all about forming nuclei, multiplying or uniting bees, or weak colonies, etc.; or, in fact, everything about the queen-business which you may want to know—send for Doolittle's "Scientific Queen-Rearing"—a book of over 170 pages, which is as interesting as a story. Here are some good offers of this book:

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**Greenville Bee-Hive Manufactory.**—W. R. Graham, of Greenville, Tex., has bought back the Greenville Bee-Hive Manufactory, and will continue the business in his own name. Address him for catalogue.

#### List of Honey and Beeswax Dealers

Most of whom Quote in this Journal.

##### Chicago, Ills.

J. A. LAMON, 43 South Water St.  
S. T. FISH & CO., 189 South Water St.  
R. A. BURNETT & CO., 163 South Water Street.

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F. L. SAGE & SON, 183 Reade Street.  
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CHAS. ISRAEL & BROS., 486 Canal St.  
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WM. A. SELSER, 10 Vine St.

##### Cincinnati, Ohio.

C. F. MUTH & SON, cor. Freeman & Central avs.

#### Convention Notices.

**CONNECTICUT.**—The fall meeting of the Connecticut Bee-Keepers' Association will be held Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1895, at the Capitol at Hartford. MRS. W. E. RILEY, Sec.

Waterbury, Conn.

**CALIFORNIA.**—The California State Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its next annual meeting in the Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles, on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 18 and 19, the first session commencing at 2 p.m. on the 18th. This meeting will be largely devoted to the subject of marketing our honey. A large and representative gathering is desired, for plans are to be considered that will have a vital bearing upon our future honey markets. JOHN H. MARTIN, Sec.  
Bloomington, Calif.

**ILLINOIS.**—The Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its annual meeting at the State House in Springfield, Nov. 19 and 20. 1895. The I. O. O. F. have their grand encampment, beginning on Nov. 19, and they have secured an open rate of fare and a third for the round trip, from all points in the State. So we hope for a large attendance and a good meeting.

The Special Meeting of the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Chicago, at the New Briggs House, northeast corner of Randolph St. and Fifth Ave., on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 9 and 10, 1896—the week of the National Cycle Show—when excursion rates will be given. Notice will be published later as to whether these rates will be on the certificate plan or otherwise. Chicago hotel rates are 75 cents each, per night, two in a room; \$1.00 if one in a room. Meals extra—pay for what you order, or go elsewhere for meals, if preferred. JAS. A. STONE, Sec.  
Bradford, Ill.

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#### Wants or Exchanges.

This department is only for your "Wants" or bona-fide "Exchanges," and such will be inserted here at 10 cents a line for each time, when specially ordered into this department. Exchanges for cash or for price-lists, or notices offering articles for sale, will not be inserted here—such belong in the regular advertising columns, at regular rates.

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42A3t De Kalb, Ill.



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**Postage Stamps** of any denomination may be sent for any fraction of a dollar; or where Money Orders cannot be obtained, stamps for any amount may be sent.

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**Lost Numbers.**—We carefully mail the Bee Journal to every subscriber, but should any be lost in the mails, we will replace them if notified before all the edition is exhausted. Please don't wait a month or two, for then it may be too late to get another copy.

**Emerson Binders**, made especially for the American Bee Journal, are convenient for preserving each weekly Number, as fast as received. They will be sent, postpaid, for 75 cents, or clubbed with the American Bee Journal for one year—both together for \$1.60. They cannot be sent by mail to Canada.

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To whom it may concern:—

I have this day sold to the A. I. Root Co., of Medina, Ohio, my business in Chicago, as "Dealer in Bee-keepers' supplies," together with the good-will of the same; and while thanking my many friends and customers during the past 20 years for their generous patronage, I would bespeak a continuance of the same for my successors, who are well-known manufacturers and dealers in apicultural supplies, and can fill all orders, whether large or small, with promptness and accuracy.

CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 16, 1895.

We have secured the services of **MR. GEO. W. YORK** as manager, who needs no introduction to most of our patrons. Besides his sterling business qualities and promptness, he has had long experience and drill in the supply business under T. G. Newman & Son, before he purchased the **AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL**, of which he is still editor and proprietor.

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